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CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION

N · E · W · S

Published by the California Arboretum Foundation, a non profit corporation supporting the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.

Winter
1989-90

Coloring California

Hibiscus rosa-sinensis
The Chinese
(or Tropical) Hibiscus

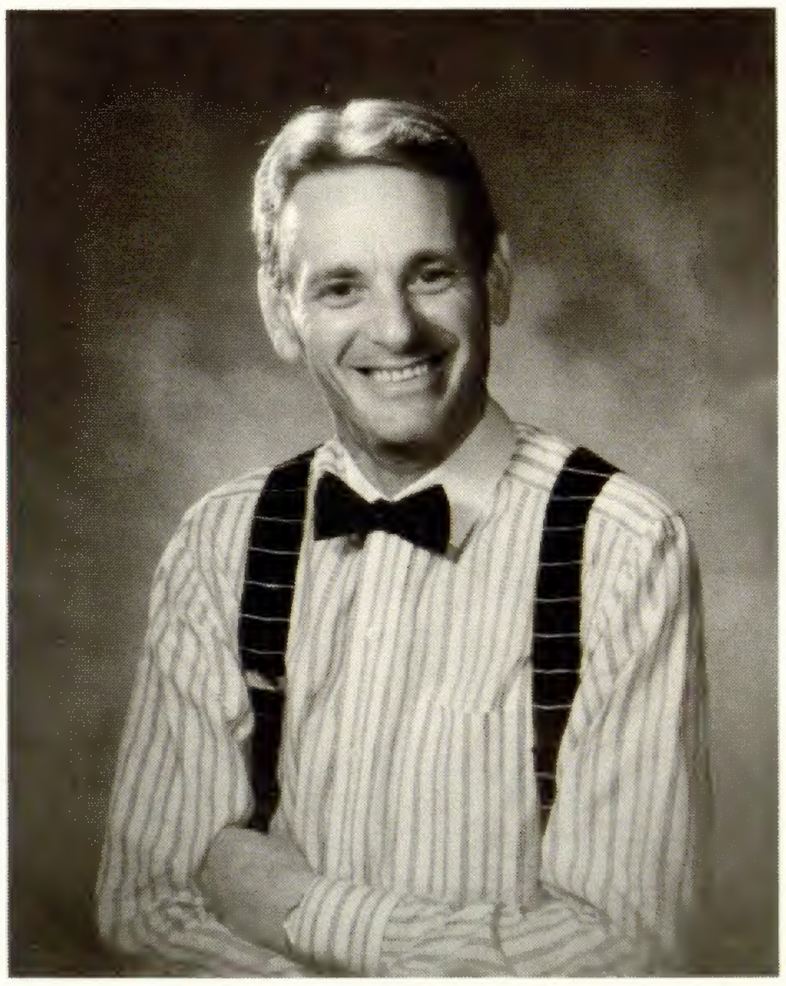
"Myella"
"William Stewart"
"Lasca Beauty"
Introduced, November 1968

Botanists and gardeners have long been captivated by the ornamental hibiscus, H.rosa-sinensis. Its talent for producing exciting hybrids (to date, over one thousand) has also produced a multitude of hibiscus hybridizer hobbyists. Ross H. Gast, a self described "dour Scotch gardener," became a research associate at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in 1958, and was responsible for the three hibiscus that were introduced in November, 1968.

The hibiscus, H.rosa-sinensis, has a wide distribution in China, India, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands. No wild hibiscus has survived in any of these countries, and, until a fossil was discovered in India, China was presumed the place of origin. Hibiscus flowers, with flaring petals and a long protruding column of stamens are spectacular. The blossoms are both single and double and measure from

continued on page 7

Leonard Tharp to be Designer-in-Residence at the Arboretum



Leonard Tharp

Leonard Tharp, noted floral designer and author will launch an exciting new year of programs at the Arboretum. Tharp's presentation at the Arboretum in late February will mark his first appearance on the West Coast. As the Arboretum's designer- in-residence, Tharp will present a series of lectures and workshops on the art of flower arranging over a period of 2 weeks. The California Arboretum Foundation is proud to present this unique opportunity for both industry professionals and dedicated amateurs.

For years a dynamic speaker in horticultural circles, Mr. Tharp has been especially active on the lecture circuit since the 1986 publication of his book, *Leonard Tharp: An American Style of Flower Arrangement*. His floral boutique, Leonard Tharp, Inc. was an acclaimed success in Houston, Texas until Mr. Tharp closed the shop to relocate in the Washington D.C. area. There he established the Leonard Tharp Conservatory of Floral Art, which holds regular symposia sponsored by the American Horticultural Society at its National Headquarters, River Farm.

Mr. Tharp's classes at the Arboretum are scheduled for February 21, 22, 27 and 28. Participants may choose to attend morning lectures or all-day workshops with Mr. Tharp. A broad spectrum of topics will be covered with each day providing a wealth of practical information as well as a higher appreciation of the natural world. Workshops, limited to 15, will offer participants the exciting opportunity to create their own floral design working directly with Mr. Tharp.

Invitations for Mr. Tharp's series will be mailed in early January. Subjects for the lectures and workshops will be included in the registration materials. For further information, please contact the Foundation Office at (818) 447-8207. Mr. Tharp's book is currently available at the Arboretum Gift Shop, (818) 447-8751.

Board Notes from Alice Frost Thomas, President

When the days get shorter and the leaves begin to change color, it's big holiday time – Thanksgiving followed by Christmas and New Year's Day. It is a time to be thankful for Dr. Samuel Ayres, Jr., whose idea it was to bring more color (flowers, leaves, bark, berries) to the Southern California landscape and founded the Arboretum to do it, for the staff who have made his ideas grow, for the countless hours donated by our volunteers, for our members and donors who make the otherwise unattainable possible.

The best party of the season was held on Saturday, December 2, for **Gardening** students and their parents. Lettuce, beets, carrots and radishes were harvested to take home as well as rooted cuttings from the Children's Discovery Garden. Workbooks that included planting charts, growing schedules and pictures of the progress of their garden plots, photographed by each student, were admired. Awards were given to all class participants. It was a bountiful day and Wendy Sekovich, Arboretum Education Specialist, is to be congratulated for creating and teaching this wonderful and imaginative introductory gardening class.

It is also a time to look forward. Expansion of our education classes will become a reality when new classrooms are available by way of the Master Plan capital campaign. Renovation of the Peacock Pavilion Café will start early in the new year, funded by gifts to the Foundation. There are three plant sales scheduled for 1990: a Valentine Sale on February 10th; the 20th Baldwin Bonanza Sale on May 6th with a preview party for members on the 5th; a summer plant sale on June 23rd. It is a good idea to put those dates on your calendar now so you do not miss our specialties and bargains. Plans are well underway for our first Midsummer Night's Dream Party on June 22nd, chaired by trustee Fred Schoellkopf. He has enlisted many other board members to help and they are promising an evening of fun that will rival any party ever given by 'Lucky' Baldwin. More about it in future newsletters.

We wish you a Happy New Year.

Alice Frost Thomas

Loren Braun, Henry Lee and Trevor Garlock (l to r) harvest their crops at the Arboretum's Children's Gardening Class.

Trustees Veva McKee and Fred Schoellkopf on the porch of the Queen Anne Cottage. Fred is the chairman of the Midsummer Night's Dream, the dazzling new fundraising event scheduled for Friday evening, June 22, 1990.

Development News

Garland Orchid House Dedicated

The opening of the Arboretum's new state-of-the-art orchid house was celebrated with a daylong Orchid Symposium on the grounds in September. Named in memory of Blanche Hinman Garland, the Orchid House demonstrates the Garland family's long involvement with the Arboretum.

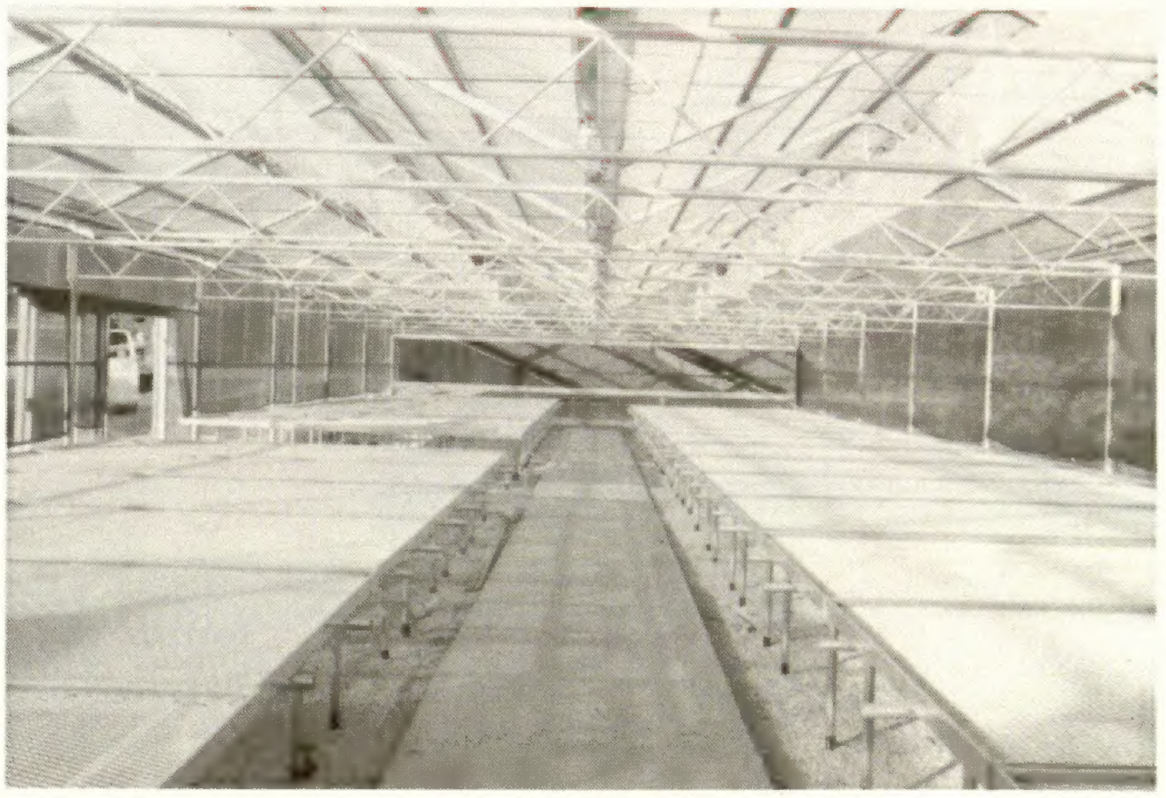
The Blanche Hinman Garland Orchid House is the first Master Plan project that has been implemented as a result of the $12,000,000 campaign for the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. The $150,000 grant to construct the Orchid House was provided by a local foundation that wishes to remain anonymous.

The Garland Orchid House is a 4500 square-foot structure with walls and ceiling of Dynaglass, a polycarbonated plastic made by Paltough. The Dynaglass is designed to last 20 years without breaking or discoloring and allows the maximum amount of light necessary for the plants to manufacture food. On bright days, a motorized screen is available to filter out 65 percent of the sunlight. A Cool Cell cooling system replaces all the air in the greenhouse once a minute and helps to maintain the humidity level. Growing space has also been gained through the installation of galvanized steel rolling benches. This eliminates the need for permanent aisles.

The Arboretum maintains one of the largest diversified collections of orchids. The Garland Orchid House will hold the majority of the species collection, thus alleviating the congestion problem in the other greenhouses. Orchidist Earl Ross, who oversees the entire collection, will also use the new facility to propagate seedlings. The increase in the number of seedlings will facilitate our plant exchanges with other botanical gardens.

Ross is also interested in collecting new plant material for the Arboretum. His travels have taken him to Brazil, tropical Asia, China and Malaysia. He obtains first-hand information by observing the orchid plants growing in their natural habitat, thus greatly assisting his cultivation efforts at LASCA.

Arboretum Orchidist Earl Ross discusses the orchid collection with visitors during the Orchid Symposium.



The interior of the newly completed Garland Orchid House.

Oak Tree Foundation Continues Support of Arbor Day Program

The Oak Tree Foundation has continued their generous support of the Arboretum's Arbor Day program with a grant of $4500. The program provides instruction and experience in environmental education and conservation for thousands of elementary school children in Los Angeles County.

Through the Arbor Day program, live trees are provided to approximately 700 elementary schools. Curriculum materials are also distributed to each participating school. The "hands-on" experience children receive while planting a tree on the school grounds is designed to emphasize the importance of man's relationship to plant life.

With the ongoing support of the Oak Tree Foundation, the Arboretum has been able to build an excellent educational program for local school children.

Garden Show Highlights

Good Earth Enterprises won the sweepstakes award at the Garden Show.

Mr. Merlin Olsen served as Honorary Chairman of the 1989 Garden Show. During the Preview Party he presented awards to the major exhibitor catagories, including:

Sweepstakes Award
Good Earth Enterprises
Judges' Award
Monrovia Nursery
Theme Award
California Association of Nurserymen
Los Angeles Chapter
Theme Award
Good Earth Enterprises
Alice Frost Perpetual Award
For Best use of Color
Sassafras Nursery

First grade students from Clairbourn school visit their Garden Show exhibit.

Trustee Hannah Bradley (r) greets Arboretum Benefactors Harriet and Jim Gamble (c) and trustee Richard Grant at the Preview Party.

Monrovia Nursery won the Judges' Award at the Garden Show for "At Home in an Alpine Garden."

UCLA Landscape Architecture Student Association created the winning design illustrating the Garden Show theme "At Home in the Garden."

Preview Party Highlights

Special thanks to the following friends who contributed nearly $8,000 in support of the proposed Education Center and $2,000 for scholarships for the 1990 Children's Education Program:

Alice Avery
Mr. and Mrs. R. Stanton Avery
Mr. Edward M. Benson, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. John J. Bucklin
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce R. Byers
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cheesewright
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur L. Crowe
Ms. Wendy Currier
Mr. and Mrs. James Dickason
Dr. and Mrs. William Dietrick
Mrs. Stephen Farrand
Mrs. William May Garland
Mr. and Mrs. William T. Gimbel
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Grant, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas C. Gregg
Mrs. Margaret G. Grossman
Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Hammond
Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hodgson
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hotaling
Dr. and Mrs. Elliott Jacobson
Mr. and Mrs. C. Douglas Kranwinkle
Dr. and Mrs. Allen W. Mathies, Jr.
Ms. Christine M. McCarthy
Mr. Albert B. McKee, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Lowry B. McCaslin
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Meyerman
Mr. and Mrs. Richard F. Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Coleman Morton
Ms. Mary Will Newell
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen R. Onderdonk
Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Renwick
Mrs. Robert S. Richardson
Mrs. George Vernon Russell
Mrs. Sue F. Schechter
Dr. and Mrs. Frank S. Schiff
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schoellkopf
Mrs. William J. Shirley
Mr. and Mrs. William G. Steele, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Tauer, Jr.
Mrs. Reese H. Taylor
Mrs. Richard Teachout
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Techentin
Mrs. Dudley W. Thomas
Mrs. Joseph D. Vaccaro
Mrs. Elizabeth M. Watson
Ms. Inez Gilbert Webster
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Werdel, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. E. James Wilson

Our sincere thanks to Trustee and Preview Party Chairman Suzie Miller for the most successful Garden Show Preview Party.

Garden Show committee member Joan Banning and Robert Banning.

The 1989 Garden Show Preview Party provided special acknowledgement of the outstanding support provided by the Benefactors, the Arboretum's premier support group.

1989 Benefactor Members include:

Mr. and Mrs. Guilford C. Babcock
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Banning
Hannah G. Bradley
Mrs. Ulrich Bannister Bray
Mr. and Mrs. George Brumder
Mrs. Harrison Chandler
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur L. Crowe
Mr. and Mrs. John Earhart
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Fehrer
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Fish
Mr. and Mrs. Richard N. Frank
Mr. and Mrs. Don Freeberg
Mr. and Mrs. F. Daniel Frost
Mr. and Mrs. James N. Gamble
Mrs. William May Garland
Mr. and Mrs. William T. Gimbel
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Grant, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Heath
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Henigson
Mr. and Mrs. William G. Keller
Mr. and Mrs. C. Douglas Kranwinkle
Mr. and Mrs. Leland Larson
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Lewis
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh L. Macneil
Mrs. Elise M. Marvin
Gary Matus
Mr. and Mrs. Ray McCullough
Mr. and Mrs. A. Kingston McKee
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pankow
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Paradise
Mrs. Robert O. Ragsdale
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ray
Dr. James W. Robeson
Mrs. George Vernon Russell
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schoellkopf
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Slavik
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stein
Mr. and Mrs. H. Randall Stoke
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Tauer, Jr.
Mrs. Reese H. Taylor
Dr. Bonnie C. Templeton
Mrs. Dudley W. Thomas
Mrs. Edward Valentine
Mr. and Mrs. Sidney H. Wall
Elizabeth M. Watson
Mr. and Mrs. Norman B. Williamson

Calendar of Events

December

Monday, December 25
Christmas - Arboretum Closed

January, 1990

Tuesday, January 16
California Arboretum Foundation
Board Meeting
4:00 p.m. Lecture Hall A

Sunday, January 21
Southern California Gladiolus Society
9:00 a.m. – 4:40 p.m.,
Ayres Hall and Lecture Hall

Saturday and Sunday, January 27, 28
Baiko-En Bonsai Kenkyukai Society
9:00 a.m. – 4:40 p.m., Ayres Hall

February

Friday and Saturday, February 2,3
Mid Valley Arts League, Inc.
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Ayres Hall

Sunday, February 4
Members' Lecture Series
"New Old Roses"
Clair Martin III, 3:00 p.m., Lecture Hall
Advance reservations necessary
See Special Events section

Saturday, February 10
Valentine Plant Sale
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Ayres Hall

Monday, February 12
Las Voluntarias General Meeting
9:00 a.m. – 12 noon, Ayres Hall

Saturday and Sunday, February 17,18
Temple City Camellia Society
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Ayres Hall

Tuesday, February 20
California Arboretum Foundation
Board Meeting
4:00 p.m. Lecture Hall A

Wednesday, February 21
Leonard Tharp Lecture
10:00 a.m., Lecture Hall
Advance reservations necessary

Thursday, February 22
Leonard Tharp Lecture
10:00 a.m., Lecture Hall
Advance reservations necessary

Friday, February 23
California Arboretum Foundation
Founders' Day Trustee Workshop
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Lecture Hall

Tuesday, February 27
Leonard Tharp Lecture
10:00 a.m., Lecture Hall
Advance reservation necessary

Wednesday, February 28
Leonard Tharp Lecture
10:00 a.m., Lecture Hall
Advance reservation necessary

March

Monday, March 5
Las Voluntarias Board Meeting
9:30 a.m., Lecture Hall B

Monday, March 5
Members' Lecture Series
"Recollections on the Oak by a practicing Arborist"
J. Harold Mitchell
7:30 p.m., Lecture Hall
Advance reservations necessary
See Special Events section

Thursday, March 8
Day at the Races – Santa Anita Park
Club House Terrace, 12 noon
Advance reservations necessary
See Special Events section

Thursday-Monday, March 8-12
Philadelphia Flower Show Trip
See Special Events Section

Saturday, March 10
Environmental Education Fair
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, March 17,18
Lorquin Entomological Society
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Ayres Hall

Tuesday, March 20
California Arboretum Foundation
Board Meeting
4:00 p.m., Lecture Hall A

Saturday and Sunday
March 31 and April 1
Southern California Iris Society
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Ayres Hall

Save These Dates

May

Saturday, May 5
Baldwin Bonanza Preview Party

Sunday, May 6
Baldwin Bonanza Plant Sale

Saturday, May 19
Water Management in the Landscape
All day seminar

The following organizations and societies meet monthly at the Arboretum. The meetings are open to Foundation members:

Akebono Bonsai Society
Second Friday, 7:30-10 pm

American Begonia Society
San Gabriel Valley
Second Tuesday, 7-10 pm

Arcadia Garden Club
Second Wednesday, 9-12:30 pm

Arboretum District Garden Club
First Monday, 9:30-12 noon

Cymbidium Society of America
San Gabriel Valley Branch
Fourth Tuesday, 7-10 pm

Epiphyllum Society of America
First Tuesday, 7-10 pm

Herb Society of America
Southern California Unit
Fourth Thursday, 8 am-3 pm

International Geranium Society
Los Angeles Branch
Third Thursday, 7-10 pm

Los Angeles International
Fern Society
Third Friday, 7-10 pm

Pacific Rose Society
First Thursday, 5-10 pm

San Gabriel Valley
Orchid Hobbyists, Inc.
Third Thursday, 6-10 pm

San Gabriel Valley Cactus
& Succulent Society
Second Thursday, 6:30-10 pm

Santa Anita Bonsai Society
Second Saturday, 7-10 pm

Shohin Bonsai Society of
Southern California
Second Wednesday, 7-10 pm

Southern California
Camellia Society
Second Tuesday, 6:30-10 pm

Southern California Hemerocallis and
Amaryllis Society
Third Saturday, 9 am-1:30 pm

Southern California Iris Society
Fourth Saturday, 9:30 am-4 pm

Temple City Camellia Society
Fourth Thursday, 6:30-10 pm

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Crown Odyssey September 24, 1990

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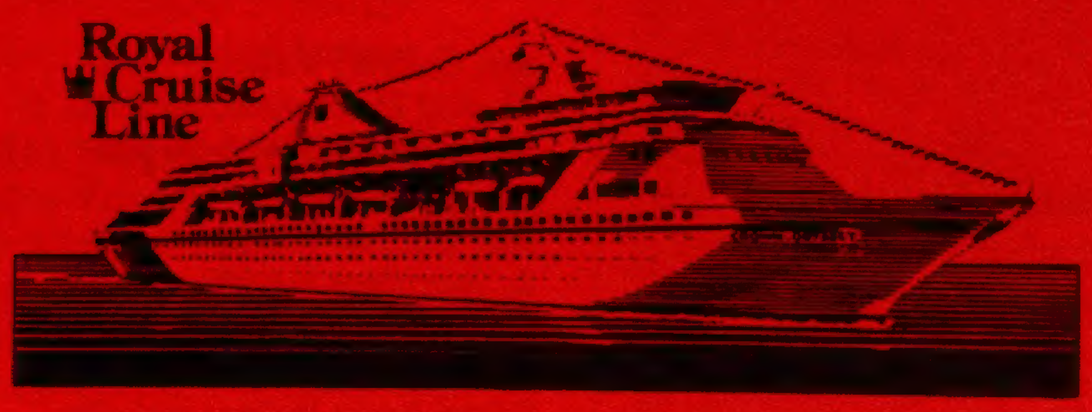
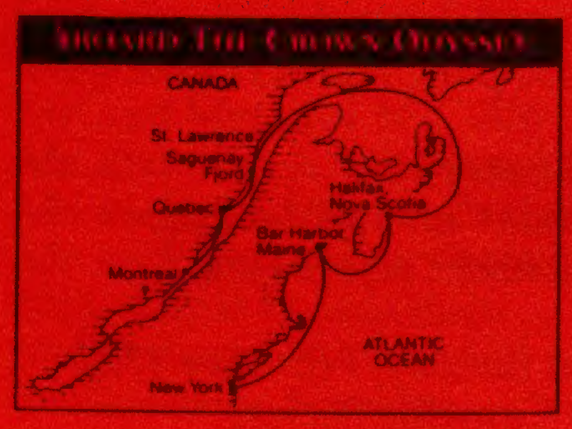
NEW ENGLAND
THE GREAT ST LAWRENCE

The perfect cruise at the perfect season — a Golden Autumn cruise on the spectacular new *Crown Odyssey*. In 7 days, you'll experience all the fascinating variety, stirring history and scenic splendor of New England, Canada's Maritime Provinces and the St. Lawrence River. Sail out past the Statue of Liberty to rustic Bar Harbor, Halifax, the Saguenay Fjord, ravishing Quebec and cosmopolitan Montreal.

The superb new *Crown Odyssey* incorporates stunning innovations which will set new standards for shipboard living. Yet for all her elegance, she continues Royal Cruise Line's tradition of warm, friendly service, outstanding cuisine and exclusive features — such as the famed Host Program and American Heart Association Cuisine — that are only from Royal Cruise Line.





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Card # _____
Expiration Date _____

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Signature as it appears on card.

PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW
March 8-12, 1990

Trip Itinerary:

Philadelphia Museum of Art
Flowers in Art Exhibit

Morris Arboretum Tour
Tour of Main Line Philadelphia Homes
Barnes Foundation

Independence National Historical Park
Brandywine Adventure
Winterthur Museum and Gardens

Chadds Ford Inn
Longwood Gardens

Special behind-the-scenes tour of the Philadelphia Flower Show

Cost:
Tours, local transportation and some meals
$475

Optional evening event
Preview Dinner Philadelphia Flower Show
$175
(Donation to the Philadelphia Flower Show)
Airfare or hotel not included in cost

Donation to the California Arboretum Foundation
$50

Philadelphia Tour Reservation – Deadline January 15th

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Please make ____ reservations at $525 (includes $50 tax deductible donation to CAF)

Please make ____ reservations at $700 (includes Preview Dinner Philadelphia Flower Show and $50 tax deductible donation to CAF)

MasterCard/VISA # _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Please make checks payable to CAF and return with this form to:
California Arboretum Foundation, 301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia 91007

A Day at the Races

Sponsored by the California Arboretum Foundation for members and their guests

Date
Thursday, March 8, 1990

Time
12:00 noon

Place
Club Terrace
Santa Anita Race Track
285 West Huntington Drive
Arcadia

Price
$7 per ticket
The Club Terrace requires a minimum food or beverage purchase of $4 per person.

A Day at the Races
Reservations

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

I would like _____ tickets at $7 each.

Total enclosed $ _____

Please make checks payable to the California Arboretum Foundation.

Return your form with payment to:
California Arboretum Foundation, 301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, California 91007

The California Arboretum Foundation
Members' Lecture Series

"Recollections on the Oak by a practicing Arborist"

Guest Lecturer:
J. Harold Mitchell
owner, Miller Pest Control

Monday, March 5
7:30 p.m.
Lecture Hall

"New Old Roses"

Guest Lecturer:
Clair Martin III
Curator of the Rose Garden
The Huntington Botanical Gardens

Sunday, February 4
3:00 p.m.
Lecture Hall

Los Angeles State and County Arboretum
301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia

Advance Reservations Necessary
Foundation Members – $5
Non-Members – $10

Reservations will be held at the door

Arboretum admission fees in effect. CAF members please present membership card.

Foundation membership information, please call 818-447-8207

Reservation Form for Members' Lecture Series

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Membership# _____

Please reserve _____ members' tickets at $5 each for "New Old Roses."

Please reserve _____ non-members' tickets at $10 each for "New Old Roses"

Please reserve _____ members' tickets at $5 each for "Recollections on the Oak"

Please reserve _____ non-members' tickets at $10 each for "Recollections on the Oak"

Please make checks payable to and send with this form to: **California Arboretum Foundation**
301 North Baldwin Avenue
Arcadia, California 91007

VALENTINE PLANT SALE

Saturday, February 10, 1990

9 am to 4 pm

Los Angeles State & County Arboretum

301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, California 91007

(One block south of the 210 Freeway. Exit on Baldwin Avenue.)

Orchids
Anthuriums
Heliconia
Jasmine
Plants for Valentine's Day

Sponsored by
The California Arboretum Foundation and the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.
Free admission to CAF members with membership card.

"Entertainment 90"

Half It All! Save 50% on Almost Everything.
Dining, Movies, Sports, Travel and more.
San Gabriel Valley Edition available right now in
the Foundation Office – $35.00
Other area books can be ordered through
the Foundation Office
at 818-447-8207
Delivery within three to four days.

Travel News

Come Along With Me

A trip to the March 1990 Philadelphia Flower Show affords a marvelous opportunity to include visits to other "not to be missed" sites. Working with Hospitality Philadelphia Style, an organization that promotes the flower show and depends heavily on local volunteers to make visits a success, a 4 nights and 3 1/2 days itinerary has been arranged exclusively for members of the California Arboretum Foundation and their guests.

To briefly summarize the highlights:
- We will be staying at a great Victorian landmark hotel in the historic area, the Independence Park Inn. There are only 36 guest rooms, all with high ceilings.
- An expertly guided tour of "Flowers in Art" at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.
- Lunch in a private home in the Chestnut Hill area.
- A visit to the home and garden of Ernesta and Fred Ballard. Ernesta was the head of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society for many years, is largely responsible for the excellence of the flower show, has been honored by many horticultural societies for her contributions.
- a visit to the Morris Arboretum, a 175 acre estate.
- a welcome dinner at a private club.
- a visit to the Barnes Foundation, a gallery housing 1,000 paintings including works by Picasso, Renoir, Cezanne and Matisse, formerly a private home.
- Lunch at City Tavern, reconstructed on the spot where Washington, Jefferson, Franklin et al relaxed as they discussed the problems of the day.
- preview party and dinner at the flower show - opening night! Black tie for the men. Cocktail dresses for the ladies.
- a day in the Brandywine Valley including visits to Winterthur Museum and Gardens and Longwood Gardens.
- Lunch at the Chadds Ford Inn.
- a visit to the home of noted herb specialist Joanna Reed. She will prepare dinner for us using herbs from her own garden.
- an early morning (pre-public opening) behind-the-scenes tour of the Philadelphia Garden Show – an excellent time to take photographs.

Dates, facts and costs:

Plan to arrive in Philadelphia by Thursday evening, March 8, 1990. Touring with Hospitality Philadelphia Style begins Friday at 9:30 a.m. and doesn't end until you want to say farewell to the flower show on Monday, March 12th.
- $525 includes all admissions, tour busses and guides, 3 lunches, 2 dinners and a $50 contribution to the California Arboretum Foundation.
- $700 will include all of the above and add the Philadelphia Flower Show Preview Dinner to your itinerary.
- You are responsible for the cost of your transportation to Philadelphia and from the airport to your hotel and vice versa, and your hotel room.

Independence Park Inn rates:
Double occupancy $109
Single $99
(Includes complementary European breakfast and afternoon tea.)

Since these days in Philadelphia have been specifically arranged for us with visits to private houses and gardens, even a dinner cooked by herb specialist Joanna Reed, we must have your fee, $525 or $700, by January 15th. For a more detailed description of the places we will visit, what we will see, stop by the Foundation Office and ask to see the folder sent by Hospitality Philadelphia Style. I tested their hospitality at the time of the 1988 Philadelphia Flower Show and gave it 4 stars. This promises to be even better as it is more extensive and planned just for CAF members and guests.

There will be a New York Flower Show from March 3 to 11 and a Massachusetts Flower Show (Boston) March 10 to 18. I am planning to extend my trip to one or both. If you are interested, there is a place to check on the enclosed reservation form. It is easy to go by train. The largest additional cost would be for hotel rooms, especially in New York City.

Alice Frost Thomas

Coloring California *continued from page 1*

two to fourteen inches in diameter. They display an incredible array of color — from white to pure yellow, through orange, rose, violet, purple to brown. In California, the plants grow from four to fifteen feet in height; in the tropics, they can be tree-like at thirty feet.

The hibiscus is a member of the mallow family that includes plants of economic value, such as okra and hemp, as well as ornamental shrubs. Hawaii features the exotic beauty as its state flower. The Chinese and East Indians find practical uses for the hibiscus. In India, they polish their shoes with the petals.

In spite of domestic applications, the blossom has been dubbed "Queen of Tropical Flowers." In the tradition of royalty, portraits of the hibiscus hang in two galleries in England. The earliest portrait, made in the 1770s, hangs in the British Museum. The other portraits, commissioned in 1810 by a tea merchant, are water colors painted by a Chinese artist. These hang in the Lindley Library of the Royal Horticultural Society.

These beautiful flowers excited all who travelled the trade routes. In 1753 they were described by botanist Linnaeus. By the end of the 19th century they were introduced to the greenhouses of Europe. As early as 1820, propagation became a significant and rewarding interest. In 1868, hybridization, a hobby of the wealthy plantation owners in Hawaii, eventually made Hawaii the acknowledged leader in research and experience in the field.

Such enthusiasm captured the interest of Ross H. Gast, who went to Hawaii as a young man in the 1930s to escape the depression. There he worked with A.B. Bush, a compulsive hibiscus pollen duster. In addition, he sought out old Japanese gardeners to learn the techniques of pollination developed on the plantations in the past century.

Mr. Gast returned to California in the forties to make his fortune with a simple invention, the paper and wire "twistems." This provided him with the leisure and income to pursue his passion, hibiscus hybridizing. He purchased a greenhouse, when he realized that a controlled atmosphere was necessary to successfully hybridize hibiscus in California. His work included building a bibliography on hibiscus, making a collection of old varieties and true species, and developing a program to produce hardier hibiscus for the nursery trade of Southern California. In 1958, when he became affiliated with the Arboretum, he was the leading authority in the field of hibiscus hybridization.

By Constance Wood

Education News

Members' Lecture Series

"New Old Roses" is the title of the first lecture in the Members' Lecture Series sponsored by the California Arboretum Foundation. Clair G. Martin III will present the illustrated lecture on Sunday, February 4, at 3:00 p.m. in the Arboretum's Lecture Hall.

Clair G. Martin is presently Curator of the Rose Garden at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, where he maintains an historical collection of some 1800 different cultivars of roses. Martin is an official judge for the All-America Rose Selections Test Garden at the Huntington and serves as Chairman for the Huntington Symposium on Old Roses. An outstanding speaker, Clair has lectured on roses in the United States, Canada, Bermuda, Australia and New Zealand.

Entomologist, J. Harold Mitchell, owner of Mitchell Pest Control in San Gabriel, will be our guest lecturer on Monday evening, March 5, at 7:30 p.m. "Recollections on the Oak by a Practicing Arborist," is the topic of his illustrated presentation.

Reservations are necessary and may be made on the reservation form in the Special Events section of this newsletter. Tickets are $5 for Foundation members and $10 for non-members.

Gift Shop News

In conjunction with our Members' Lecture Series, the Arboretum Gift Shop will feature the following books on roses:

Beales, Peter: *Classic Roses*, $60

Fearnley-Whittingstall, Jane: *Rose Gardens*, $39.95

Fisher, John: *The Companion to Roses*, $24.95

Jekyll, Gertrude: *Roses for English Gardens*, $29.50

Le Rougetel, Hazel: *A Heritage of Roses*, $29.95

Rohde, Eleanour Sinclair: *Rose Recipes from Olden Times*, $2.95

The Complete Flower Paintings and Drawings of Graham Stuart Thomas, $45.

Westrich, Josh: *Old Garden Roses*, $50

Delores Keller created topiary angels at the Arboretum Gift Shop Christmas Open House.

Children's Education Program

The Arboretum Children's Education Program will offer the class "Drawing Nature" for the Winter term. Teacher Pat Brame will present instruction in basic drawing techniques using watercolor, pen and ink, and colored pencils. The children will have a close look at nature by drawing from live plant material.

The class will meet on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Students ages 7-9 will meet January 9 - January 30. Students ages 10-12 will meet February 6 - February 27. The class enrollment is limited to 10.

For further information and registration, please contact Wendy Sekovich, Education Specialist, at 818-446-8251 ext.49.

Education Specialist Wendy Sekovich supervises students during the children's gardening class.

Volunteer News

Ikebana Lecture

Reiko Kawamura will present an Ikebana demonstration on Monday, February 12 at 10:00 a.m. at the Las Vols general meeting in Ayres Hall. She is a Master Teacher of the Ohara School. All Foundation members are invited to attend the presentation. Please call Dorothy Murset at 818-286-3766 for a reservation.

Over the last six hundred years, Ikebana has become one of Japan's traditional art forms, originating with floral offerings as part of the Buddhist ritual. Later, it reached perfection as a popular art form. As time passed, Ikebana forms changed, and many schools of Ikebana developed.

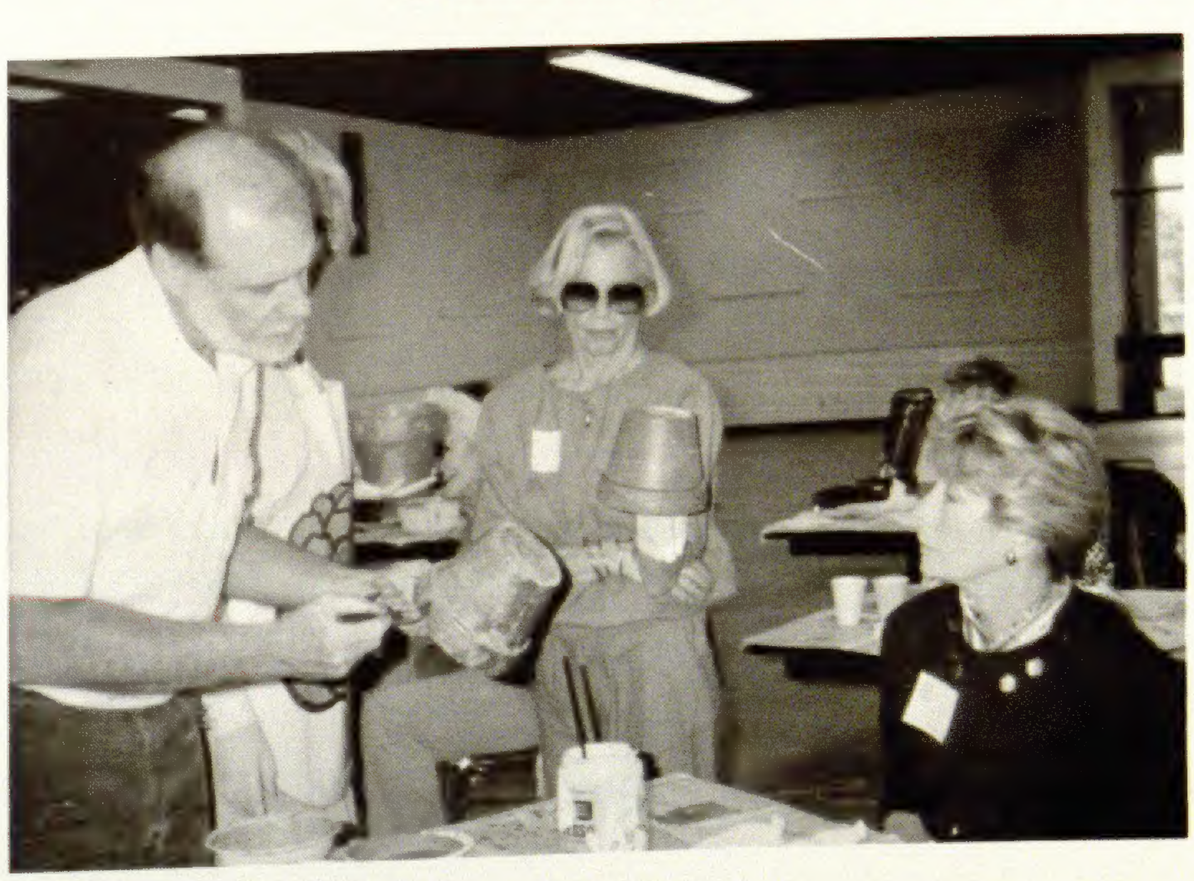
Unshin Ohara founded the Ohara School in the late 1800s, when Japan opened to the West. He created - actually designed and produced its low, flat and broad surface containers - the Moribana style, which later led to the School's introduction of the Landscape Arrangement depicting natural scenery and also the Rimpa Style Arrangement based on traditional Rimpa paintings.

Ohara School Ikebana has two basic forms: Moribana and Heika. Moribana employs flat, shallow containers; Heika, tall, thin ones. Beginners must master certain styles basic to both Moribana and Heika.

Membership in Las Voluntarias y Los Ayudantes is open to interested Foundation members. For further information about volunteer opportunities at the Arboretum, please contact Patricia Bergen, the volunteer coordinator at 818-446-8251.

Trustee Hannah Bradley assists floral designer René van Rems during his Christmas Floral Demonstration at the Arboretum.

Mary Anne Cunningham (l) and trustee Susan Kranwinkle (r) create Christmas centerpieces at the René van Rems workshop.



Trustee Fred Schoellkopf (l) demonstrates painting techniques to create a verdigris-like finish on ceramic pots to Migs Dawson (c) and Dorothy Meyerman (r).

Membership News

The California Arboretum Foundation welcomes the following members:

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Ms. Karyn Wilson
Mrs. Willie Mae Wilson
Mr. Chester Wisz
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Mr. C. Yamashiro
Ms. Louise H. Yamazaki

Horticultural News

Ask Rose Green

Q. My Eugenias have little blister-like bumps on the leaves. What is the problem?

A. The Eugenias are infected with the Eugenia Psyllid. A psyllid is related to the aphid and damages plants by sucking the plant sap. The blisters on the leaves are galls, caused by the psyllid feeding on and laying eggs in the leaves. Severe infestations will result in defoliation.

Psyllids should be treated at the first sign of the insect. Spray with a systemic insecticide containing the chemical acephate. Repeat the application in 2 weeks. In addition, prune the Eugenias lightly, fertilize with a balanced fertilizer and water regularly.

Q. When should I divide my Amaryllis?

A. Division of Amaryllis plants should be done between October and January. Be careful of the roots while digging, damaged roots will inhibit flowering in the subsequent year. Begin weekly applications of a balanced liquid fertilizer after the foliage is 8 inches long and continue until the flowers fade.

Q. Is there any tree that can be planted in a bottomless 2 foot planter? Also, it must not produce surface roots.

A. *Geijera parviflora* (Australian Willow) will fill those requirements.

Q. What can I plant for privacy along a chain-link fence?

A. Try *Bougainvillea, Oleander, Arbutus unedo* (Strawberry Tree) or Aleppo Pine.

The Black-crowned Night Heron perches on the LASCA Lagoon bridge.

"What bird is that?"

This question is frequently heard in the area of the LASCA Lagoon where both the adult and immature Black-crowned Night-Herons are one of the most noticed and yet unknown birds to Arboretum visitors.

The adult is sleek black, gray and white with fanciful streamers off the back of the head. The immature bird has a streaked tan and brown breast and darker brown back and wings with white spots. From the first spring all adults and immatures have a piercing red eye. The size and stocky silhouette of the Night-Heron should prevent confusion in identity with other members of the Heron family that are sometimes seen at the lagoon, such as the smaller Green-backed Heron.

Night-Herons are found perching in the trees around the lagoon and pond, on railings and in and along reeds, stalking their next meal. A favorite is catfish.

There has been a notable increase in Night-Herons at the Arboretum in the last ten years, although they do not breed here. As they are quite predatory it is possible that they are responsible for the decline in the American Coot population and the recent absence of Ruddy Ducks in our lagoon.

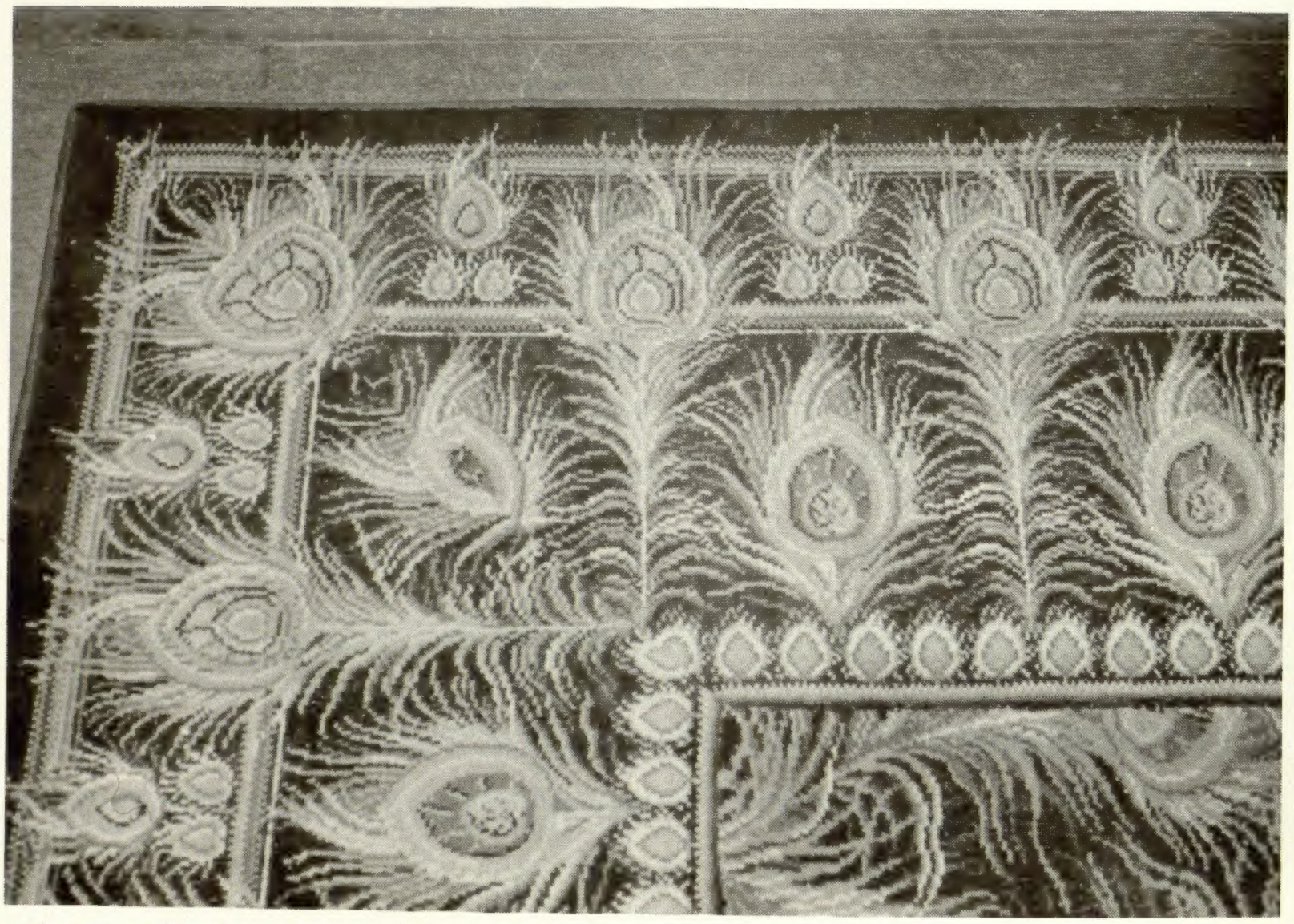
The Arboretum, with its varied habitat and bodies of water, offers temporary refuge for many types of migrating birds in spring and fall and a seasonal home to others. Fall migration is beginning and, with it, the ever-present hopes for great sightings and new species to add to "The Arboretum Bird List" of approximately 200 species. This list may be found at the Visitor's Center at the entrance. Field Guides to all the U.S. birds are available in the gift shop.

Birder's Note: The Arboretum Gift Shop has a selection of bird books including: "Birds of North America", Robbins, Brunn, Zim, Singer, $9.95; "World Birds", Brian P. Martin, $19.95; "Hummingbirds, Their Life and Behavior, A Photographic Study of the North America Species", text by Esther Quesada Tyrrell, photographs by Robert A. Tyrrell, $35.00.

Bird walks continue on the first Sunday of the month at 8:00 am.

Historical News

Through the work of Foundation members, Mary Atkinson (shown above) and Mary Ann Johnson, the Don Benito chapter of the Questers donated the funds to reupholster two chairs and a large rocker in the Queen Anne Cottage. Both the Don Benito and the El Molino chapters of the Questers, a group founded to support the preservation of historical landmarks, have made donations to enhance the Arboretum's historical collections.



Funds from the Arboretum Preservation Fund were used to purchase this Brussells carpet in the Peacock Feather pattern for the Queen Anne Cottage. Proceeds from the annual Queen Anne Christmas Open House are contributed to the Preservation Fund, used to restore and enhance the buildings in the Historical Section.

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California Arboretum Foundation
301 North Baldwin Avenue
Arcadia, California 91007

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Brooke Larsen Garlock

Contributors
Lonna Brock
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Photographs
Brooke Larsen Garlock
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Tom Mossman